

Advocates for Wild, Healthy Oceans

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MLPA Public Comments
c/o The California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Melissa Miller-Henson



RE: Comments on Draft Strategy for Stakeholder and Interested Public Participation

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Strategy for Stakeholder and Interested Public Participation (hereafter Stakeholder Strategy). Overall, this document does an excellent job of laying out a clear process that both recognizes the need for stakeholder and public input in the various stages of the MLPA Initiative process and how those interested may become involved.

Our one comment is in regards to the section, Stakeholders Defined (p2). The fact that the oceans are a public trust important to all Californians and not just coastal residents or business, is not included in the definition of those stakeholders who are impacted by a system of MPAs. We would suggest expanding the definition of stakeholders to recognize that members of the general public are entitled to representation as stakeholders who have a direct interest in the marine environment. Indeed, it is the interest of these citizens that motivated the Governor's decision to restart the MLPA process. The acknowledgement of their stake in the outcome compliments the strategy for involvement of interested members of the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, we look forward to continuing to actively participate in the various aspect of this process.

Sincerely,

Erin Simmons
The Ocean Conservancy